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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7036

BILL NUMBER: HB 1367

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 11, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Deaf and hearing impaired education services.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Noe

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Center for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Education to ensure that children who are deaf or hearing impaired acquire optimal communication and academic abilities. It requires the Office of Management and Budget to determine an appropriate agency to provide office space and staff support for the center. It transfers the outreach services and consultative services to local education agencies to assist in meeting the needs of locally enrolled students with hearing disabilities of the Indiana School for the Deaf to the center for deaf and hearing impaired education. It provides that the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Indiana School for the Deaf are subject to accountability provisions for performance and improvement, but are not subject to sanction provisions.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2012; October 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Under current law, the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) is established as a state educational resource center that includes the following:

1. A residential and day school.
2. Outreach services.
3. Consultative services to local educational agencies to assist the agencies in meeting the needs of locally enrolled students with hearing disabilities.

Under this bill, the outreach services and consultative services would be transferred to a new organization, the Center for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Education. The mission for this center (either directly or contractually) is as follows:

1. Monitor and track the identification, early intervention, and education of children who are deaf or hearing impaired.
2. Provide in-service education, coaching, and mentoring of professionals such as audiologists, deaf educators, early interventionists, general educators, guidance counselors, instructional assistants.
3. Train the parents of deaf and hearing impaired children.
4. Develop student learning opportunities.
5. Provide assessment services to include audiological assessments, and signing, oral interpreting, and cued speech and language transliterating assessments for professionals.
6. Support school corporations in providing services to students who are deaf.
7. Act as a liaison with all state agencies that provide services to individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired.

The bill tasks the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to determine an appropriate agency to provide office space and staff support for the center. OMB would have to consider how many support staff are needed, their qualifications, and the facilities and equipment they would require. The cost of acquiring or renting a suitable facility, and the personnel costs involved are indeterminable at this time. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend on legislative and administrative actions.

The IDF reaches about 70 percent of its clientele through outreach services. The bill terminates this mission and transfers it to the new center. It is assumed that the budget for the school would be reduced commensurately. At this time, the amount of any possible reduction is indeterminable.

Academic Performance: The bill provides that the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBV) and the Indiana School for the Deaf would have to adhere to the same student performance standards as public schools but are not subject to any sanctions when they do not meet those standards.

From 2006 to 2011 (there were no ratings for 2009), the ISD achieved the following performance ratings, starting with 2006: Academic Probation, Academic Watch, Academic Probation, Academic Probation, Academic Progress.

The ISBV achieved the following ratings: Academic Probation; Academic Probation; Academic Probation; Academic Probation; Academic Progress.

Current law dictates that a school is placed on probation if its performance rating is in the Academic Probation category. If it remains in this category for the next three years after first being placed on probation, the State Board has to appoint an expert team to assist the school. Based on these ratings, the State Board would have had to appoint an expert team to assist the ISBV after it placed in the Academic Probation category for the fourth successive year. Apart from being placed on probation, the ISD's performance would not have warranted any further state intervention.

Background Information:

The Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) is a fully accredited school for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in nursery school through high school. It provides services to approximately 340 students enrolled on campus and over 830 students through outreach services. About 60 percent of the students live on campus during the

academic year. ISD offers a full range of social activities, including sports, clubs, and student organizations.

The ISD sponsors outreach services throughout Indiana for parents, families, and local school corporations. These services include consultation, education and training, assessment, audiology, American Sign Language programs, and a Parent-Infant program.

The total appropriation for the school in FY 2012 and FY 2013 is approximately \$17.8 M for each fiscal year.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana School for the Deaf; Office of Management and Budget;

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Education website, <http://www.doe.in.gov/pl221/>;
Indiana School for the Deaf website, <http://www.deafhoosiers.com/>

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